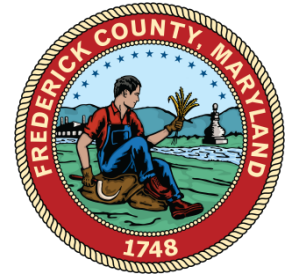




August 19, 2020



Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes

Present: John Ferri, Betty Law, Jim Reed, Kevin Sellner, Bill Steigelman, Jennifer Bird

OSER staff: Shannon Moore, Dawn Ashbacher

Frederick County Council: Kai Hagen

Guests/Public: Emilee Blackburn

Meeting Opening:

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm by Betty Law and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Approval of Minutes:

The July meeting minutes were reviewed by the Commission. Betty moved to approve the minutes. John seconded the motion. The minutes were approved.

P.A.C.E (Property Assessed Clean Energy) – Betty Law:

- In December the FCSC officers met with County Executive Jan Gardner and staff to determine how we can best support the county's initiatives.
- Executive Gardner requested that FCSC support the PACE program
- Shannon Moore of the Office of Sustainability provided an update on the program and how we can promote PACE.
 - The County Executive is interested in seeing PACE be used by county businesses.
 - PACE can provide funding for projects that can be paid back through their tax bill.
 - There is a need to attract more lenders and borrowers.
 - Some promotion has occurred through the Office of Economic Development.
 - Council President MC Keagan-Ayer is interested in more solar in the county and opening more areas to be zoned for solar.
 - Options for promoting PACE
 - Have public outreach sessions, as part of a series, or independently
 - Video for Channel 19
 - Virtual classes

- FCSC could provide public comment on Planning Commission approvals to suggest PACE use
- PACE presentation to Planning Commission
- Communicate with business owners to find a target audience

Climate Emergency Mobilization Workgroup Update – Kai Hagen/Kevin Sellner:

- Barb Trader and Kevin Sellner are co-chairs on the workgroup
- Barb and Kevin are reviewing applications for additional members who have indicated where they would like to serve
- FCSC members who have volunteered to serve include: Bill Steigleman, Faith Klareich, Kevin Sellner and Ron Kaltenbaugh. Ron is also chair of the Workshop Energy Group.
- The workgroup will meet twice a month with a goal to receive information on the progress of subgroups.
 - Agriculture, forest, land management
 - Energy, transportation, buildings
 - Health, extreme events, resilience
 - Public outreach and engagement
- First meeting August 27th.
- The group will develop a report of climate change issues with references.
 - Recommendations will be made by subtopic regarding reducing greenhouse gases and adapting infrastructures to the pending climate.
 - There will be a midterm report to the County and City.
 - The workgroup will have a page on the County website.

Suggestions for the Frederick County Legislative Package for the 2021 General Assembly Session – Betty Law:

- Suggestions are due September 9 with a workshop in October
- Betty suggested developing a subgroup to provide ideas
- Betty's input:
 - Community choice aggregation
 - Ban on plastic bags
 - Additional offshore wind installations
 - Regenerative agriculture/perennial crops
 - Building codes to move away from natural gas
- Shannon's input:
 - Community choice energy passed the MD House, but not the Senate
- Betty and Bill will form a subgroup
- Betty made a motion that one of the agenda items to promote is community choice energy as part of the Montgomery County pilot. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

- Jenn made a motion that one of the agenda items to promote is a ban on plastic bags. Bill seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Commission research shows that offshore wind facilities are in process.
- Kevin made a motion that one of the agenda items to promote is to explore expanded funding for regenerative agriculture practices throughout MD. Jim seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- The commission decided not to move forward on making suggestions regarding natural gas.
- Additional discussion was held regarding climate change and building codes, but the Commission decided to table the discussion until a later time.

Livable Frederick Advisory Group Updates

- Sugarloaf Mountain Regional Plan
 - The draft plan is expected to be released this Fall.
- 355 Corridor
 - The workgroup is expected to start this Fall.

Commissioner Reappointment

- Mark Sankey
- The recommendation to reappoint Mark Sankey has been forwarded to the County Executive office.

Commission Member Items of Interest

- Jim Reed –Manages wildlife sanctuaries for the Wildlife Land Trust. They have been approached by PGE to take the sanctuaries off their grid and build a microgrid on the ranch. Hoping to present the project to FCSC next year.
- Bill – has been involved in the Climate Change Workgroup collecting information.
- Kevin is involved with three national harmful algal bloom committees. Trying to get a small area plan set up for the downtown Frederick area.
- Betty attended a City workshop for the 2020 comprehensive plan. Spoke to the City regarding the road proposed through the Ft Detrick Area B toxic waste sites as well as about planned housing developments.
- Shannon – received Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays grant for the Creek Releaf program. Working with MDE regarding a state revolving fund for Creek Releaf. Five ponds are being retrofitted for water quality. Projects in general are moving forward despite the pandemic.
- Dawn – Dawn is a certified Climate Professional through the MD Climate Academy. Due to the cut in funding from the state, Dawn submitted a grant application to the Community Foundation of Frederick County for the Power Saver Retrofits (PSR) program to supplement existing PSR funds. The application focused on serving low and

moderate income seniors through PSR, since serving seniors is a strategic focus area for the Foundation.

Public Comments:

- None.

Bill Steigleman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jim Reed seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35.

The next meeting will be September 16, 2020.